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Testimony before
The United States House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health

Hearing on
House Resolution 3462

September 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of House Resolution 3462.

Park City, Utah, once the second largest silver mining town in the country, is now a resort community with 7,800 full-time residents and is located roughly 30 miles by interstate from Salt Lake City. When visitor capacity is included, Park City has 22,500 constituents.

The Park City area hosted 40% of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and is the home of the numerous international festivals. Gambel Oak Park and the White Acre parcels provide an important backdrop and draw to these types of activities.

Park City has a strong commitment to recreational amenities and open space making our community desirable for residents and visitors. Unlike most western recreational communities, Park City is totally surrounded by private property. Since our economy depends on our environment, Park City has had a long standing goal to balance private property rights with efforts to acquire open space. These efforts and other recent sustainable initiatives have been very successful. Since 1990 Park City has spent over \$35 million towards open space acquisition. In 1998 and again in 2002 by a margin of 75% and 80% respectively, voters approved raising their taxes to fund a total of \$20 million in bonds for the acquisition and preservation of recreational open space.

All properties purchased with open space bond funds are protected by conservation easements.

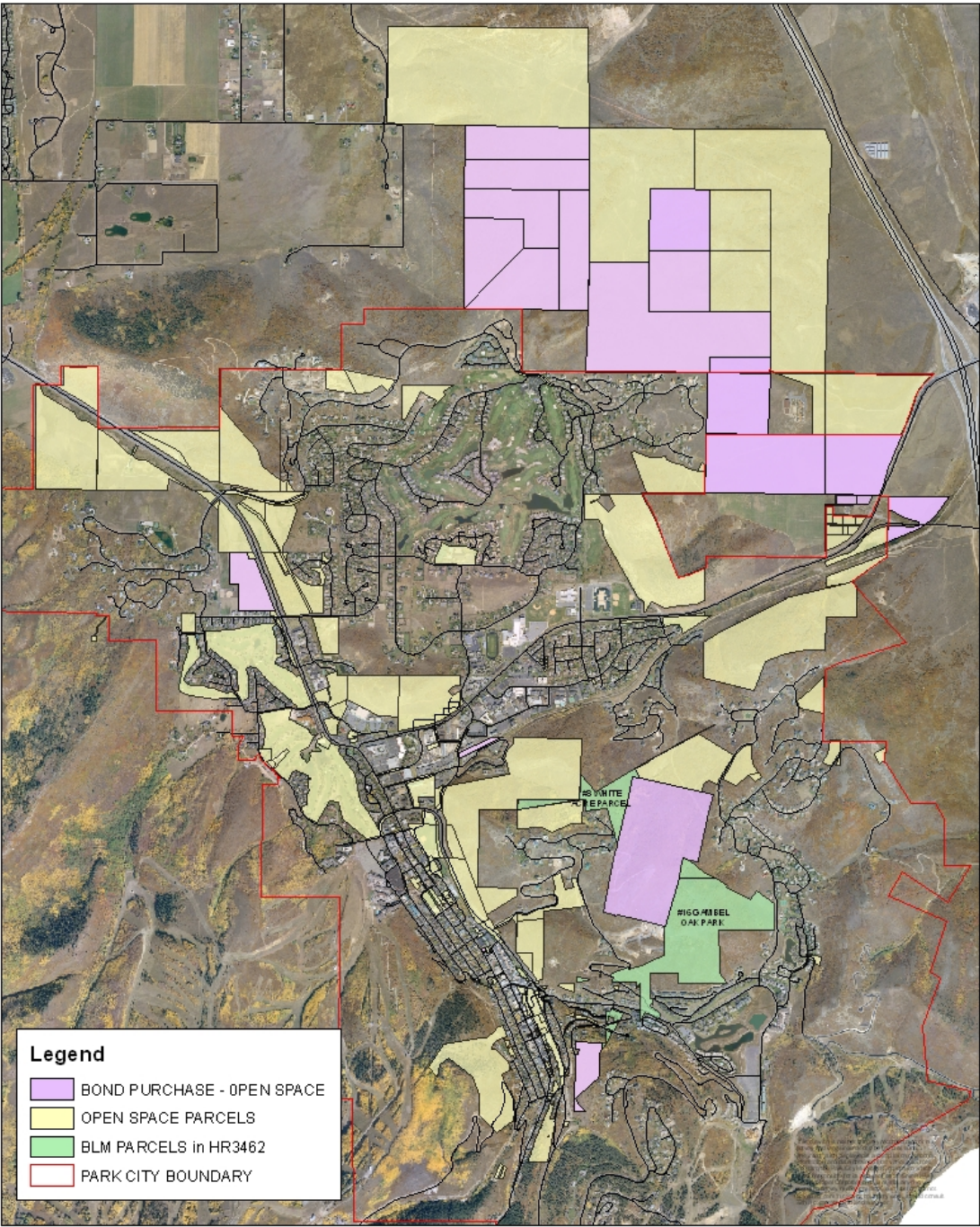
Park City has permanently protected over 4,000 acres (map attached) of open space. The latest open space bond purchase (less than a year ago) was \$10,000 per acre for 112 acres of land zoned for development located directly between and adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owned Gambel Oak Park and the White Acre parcel.

A broad coalition of business and environmental groups support this bill and understand the importance of open space to the community.

The Park City Community supports House Resolution 3462 as proposed which would allow conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak Park properties and related real property to Park City, Utah.

Thank you

Attachment 1: PARK CITY OPEN SPACE PURCHASES



PARK CITY OPEN SPACE

